United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelatif **Debabeche** (Algeria)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 11 May 2005 and its substantive session from 6 June to 1 July 2005. It held a total of 15 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-fifth session, adopted by the Committee at its organization session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I to the present report.

3. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document E/AC.51/2005/L.2. The Committee postponed the selection of a report of the Joint Inspection Unit for its consideration to its substantive session, pending a review by the members of the Bureau.

Programme of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May, the Committee had before it an informal paper submitted by the secretariat of the Committee setting out the proposed programme of work for the forty-fifth session. Views were exchanged on the duration and length of the session, as well as on the question relating to the proposed programme budget for the period 2006-2007. Due to the divergent views expressed on those issues, the Committee postponed taking a decision on its programme of work pending a review by the members of the Bureau. The Committee, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004, by which the Assembly

05-40208 (E) 290605

welcomed the decision of the Committee to revert to the agenda item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", as a matter of priority, at the beginning of its forty-fifth session, approved the programme of work of the Committee for the first two days, namely 6 and 7 June 2005, for its consideration of agenda item 7.

5. At its 2nd-4th and 6th meetings, on 6, 7 and 9 June, the Committee considered its proposed programme of work for the forty-fifth session. Questions were raised on the interpretation by the Secretariat of General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003 on strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change, particularly the provisions continued in paragraphs 11-14.

6. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 June, the representative from the Office of the Controller provided the Committee with the information requested and an explanation of the Secretariat's interpretation of General Assembly resolution 58/269. Taking into account the different views expressed in the Committee on the consideration of agenda item 4 (b), Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the period 2006-2007, the proposed programme of work for the forty-fifth session was referred to informal consultations. Following extensive discussions and negotiations, the Committee agreed on a procedure that would meet the concerns of delegations and address the implementation of the provisions contained in paragraphs 11-14 of General Assembly resolution 58/269, namely, that a statement on the implementation of resolution 58/269 with regard to sections 1-6, 8-30, 33 and 34 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 would be made by the Controller and that a statement would be made by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, under sub-item (a), programme planning, on proposed programme 27, Safety and security (A/59/806), of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.

7. At its 6th meeting, on 9 June, the Committee approved its programme of work for the forty-fifth session of the Committee.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 June, the Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that the report entitled "Overview of the series of reports on managing for results in the United Nations system" (A/59/617) contained an overview of three other reports. Taking into account that the benchmarks contained in the other three reports were included in that report, the Committee decided to select it, along with an addendum containing the comments thereon by the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (A/59/617/Add.1), for its consideration at its forty-fifth session.

B. Election of officers

9. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Valery Mkrtoumian (Armenia) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-fifth session.

10. On 3 June 2005, in a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, the secretariat of the Committee for Programme and

Coordination was informed that, owing to unforeseen health complications, the elected Chairman of the forty-fifth session would be unable to attend the session. Consequently, the members of the Group of Eastern European States were invited to nominate a candidate.

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Markiyan Kulyk (Ukraine) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-fifth session.

12. At its 1st meeting, on 11 May, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-fifth session: Vice-Chairmen: Yoo-Dae Jong (Republic of Korea) and Johannes de Millo Terrazzani (Monaco); and Rapporteur: Abdelatif Debabeche (Algeria).

13. At its 5th meeting, on 7 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Devon Rowe (Jamaica) Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the forty-fifth session.

14. The Members of the Bureau for the forty-fifth session of the Committee are:

Chairman:
Markiyan Kulyk (Ukraine)

Vice-Chairmen:
Yoo-Dae Jong (Republic of Korea)
Johannes de Millo Terrazzani (Monaco)
Devon Rowe (Jamaica)

Rapporteur:
Abdelatif Debabeche (Algeria)

C. Attendance

15. The following States Members were represented on the Committee:

Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Bahamas
Benin
Brazil
Canada
Central African Republic
China
Comoros
Cuba
France
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Monaco
Nicaragua
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
South Africa
Switzerland
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Zimbabwe

16. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Austria
Bulgaria
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Finland
Guatemala
Italy
Nigeria
Philippines
Portugal
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

17. The Holy See was represented in its capacity as Observer State.

18. The International Labour Organization was represented.

19. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Controller, the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, an Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit and senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

D. Documentation

20. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-fifth session is set out in annex II to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

21. At its 15th meeting, on 1 July, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-fifth session (E/AC.51/2005/L.4 and Add.1-__).

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.
4. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme planning;
   (b) Proposed programme budget for the period 2006-2007;[a]
   (c) Evaluation.
5. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
6. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
8. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session.

[a] In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at its forty-fifth session

A/59/87	Report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting
A/59/806	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting proposed programme 27, Safety and security, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007
A/60/70	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures
A/60/73[a]	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation
E/2005/63	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2004/05
E/AC.51/2005/1	Annotated provisional agenda
E/AC.51/2005/2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration
E/AC.51/2005/3	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
E/AC.51/2005/4	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Economic and Social Council support and coordination
E/AC.51/2005/5 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs
E/AC.51/2005/6	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/AC.51/2005/L.1 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation and for the forty-fifth session

[a] Provided for background information.

E/AC.51/2005/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
E/AC.51/2005/L.3	Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda and documentation requirements for the forty-sixth session of the Committee
E/AC.51/2005/L.4 and Add.1-___	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session
E/AC.51/2005/CRP.1	Conference room paper on proposals for future thematic evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services
E/AC.51/2005/INF.1	List of delegations

United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
30 June 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Abdelatif **Debabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Review of efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (agenda item 3)

Progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures

1. At its 13th and 14th meetings of 16 and 17 June 2005, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures (A/60/70). The representative from the Department of Management introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

2. Almost all delegations expressed strong support for the report's enhanced methodology, and took favourable note of the efforts made by the Secretariat to respond to the Committee's requests and further strengthen that type of reporting. They encouraged the Secretariat to continue to improve the presentation and to extend the coverage of reporting on the progress and the impact achieved by management improvement measures and on the obstacles encountered in their implementation. They also welcomed a series of efforts by the Department of Management for improving management communication and furthering the sharing of good management practices. They encouraged the Department to continue its efforts, initiatives and leadership, as the Department of Management plays a crucial role in the work of the Organization as a whole.

05-40533 (E) 300605

3. Some delegates expressed the view that the report itself contributes to the process of United Nations management reform, by providing a strategic view of progress and thereby encouraging managers to sustain the effort, while highlighting the relative rate of progress made and obstacles encountered, so that appropriate action can be taken to ensure successful outcomes of improvement measures.

4. Many delegates shared the concern expressed in the report that the lack of a standardized cost accounting system in United Nations offices impeded the type of analysis upon which the report was based, and asked for an update on both the status of the forthcoming feasibility study on cost accounting and its relationship to high-level efforts to address questions of accounting standards within the United Nations system. Information on those matters was provided in the latter part of the discussion, namely that procurement for the feasibility study was under way, and that a task force under the auspices of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination was undertaking work to review the existing standards, which deal with accounting principles, financial statement formats and accounting policies for specific issues — matters that do not directly bear on progress and impact reporting.

5. Several delegates expressed a concern that, with the increased emphasis on making impact reporting more quantitative, qualitative or intangible aspects of improvement might not be fully reported, and they encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that balanced reporting was attained and that it prevailed in the future.

6. The view was expressed that the project-level descriptive material in the annex to the report should allow delegates to better appreciate the reasons for improving management with regard to the different programmes and to have a fuller view of the substance of the improvement measures, as well as an overview of the deployment of initiatives among offices and departments. Accommodating that concern does raise questions as to how to keep to the new General Assembly brevity standards for such reports as A/60/70. The Secretariat expressed a willingness to share such information in more detail through informal briefings and supplementary documents.

7. Delegations expressed concern regarding the obstacles to implementation identified in the report, particularly resistance to change and lack of cooperation among offices. Delegations strongly emphasized the need for management cooperation and for skilful leadership in change management; they also stressed that reporting offices should cooperate more fully with the reporting process itself.

8. An inquiry was raised about the public management practices and other sources that influenced the creation of the analytical methodology. The representative of the Secretary-General noted the concern, but stated that multiple, global sources were reviewed and that ultimately an original approach, reflecting the unique character of our Organization, was constructed from diverse sources.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on progress and impact assessment of management improvement measures (A/60/70).**

10. **The Committee encouraged the Secretary-General to develop further an approach conducive to a genuine improvement of United Nations management, taking due account of the Organization's realities and needs.**

11. **The Committee noted the improvements to the presentation of the information and the refinements to the methodology, which took into account some of the previous comments of the Committee, as endorsed by the General Assembly, and recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to implement the remaining recommendations and to further refine the methodology and extend coverage of the data.**

12. **The Committee welcomed the initiatives by the Department of Management for improving management and requested the Department of Management, together with all relevant departments and offices, to continue efforts in that regard.**

13. **The Committee invited the General Assembly to review the appropriateness of the continuation of the consideration of the agenda item entitled "Review of efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/236 and 59/275.**

United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4/Add.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelatif **Debabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Programme questions: programme planning (item 4 (a))

Priority-setting

1. At its informal consultations on 24 June 2005, the Committee resumed its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87) .

Discussion

2. The Committee recalled that at its forty-fourth session it had decided to continue its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting at its forty-fifth session and had recommended that the General Assembly defer its consideration of the report to its sixtieth session.[1] The Committee also recalled General Assembly resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004 in which it endorsed that recommendation. The Committee further recalled Assembly resolution 59/278 of the same date, in which the Assembly decided on the priorities for the biennium 2006-2007.

3. The Committee noted that the report provided historical background on previous debates within the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the question of priority-setting. In that regard, it was noted that Member States previously had been unable to reach agreement on many aspects of the question.

05-39987 (E) 290605

4. The view was expressed that it was the responsibility of Member States to designate priorities at the macro level for the Organization and that priority-setting was key to the United Nations programme planning and budgeting process.

5. It was stressed that, while it was important to designate priorities, particularly in view of resource constraints, it was important to recognize that action to address new challenges should not be taken at the expense of priorities that have already been designated.

6. The view was also expressed that an additional difficulty with priority-setting was related to the fact that the Secretariat was required to implement all legislative mandates. It was observed that, given the fact that the designation of priorities by the General Assembly reflected general trends of a broad sectoral nature, the specialized intergovernmental bodies should play a greater role in determining priorities at the subprogramme level. On the other hand, the view was expressed that priorities should not be designated by intergovernmental bodies at the subprogramme level because of the way that the plan has been structured and because of the decision of the Assembly that priorities should reflect general trends of a broad sectoral nature.

7. It was also noted that the structure of the strategic framework was not organized to reflect sectoral issues but rather congruence with the organizational entities. It was noted that the structure had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 when it adopted the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.[2] In that connection, the General Assembly thereafter did not designate priorities by programme or subprogramme. Priorities instead reflected general trends of a broad sectoral nature. Furthermore, it was noted that the Assembly, in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998, decided that the priorities contained in the budget outline should be in conformity with the priorities in the medium-term plan. It was also recalled that the Assembly, in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, had earlier decided that the budget outline should indicate priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature. It was noted that for the medium-term plans for the periods 1998-2001 and 2002-2005,[3] the priorities for the budget outline were the same as those for the plans.

8. The view was expressed that difficulties already encountered by Member States with the designation of priorities would be further compounded at the subprogramme level. In this connection, it was stressed that the Secretary-General should have the authority to make judgements at the subprogramme level, taking due account of legislative mandates, particularly since Member States had the opportunity to reject or approve his proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget. In that context, it was pointed out that the Secretariat should fully implement regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8) so that Member States would have a basis for judging the value of programmes and activities.

9. On the other hand, the view was expressed that priority-setting, at all levels, was the prerogative of Member States and not that of the Secretary-General.

10. The view was expressed that the Committee for Programme and Coordination would have benefited from receiving an analysis or elaboration of the implications that General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003 and the strategic

framework could have on the question of priority-setting. It was stated that future reports on priority-setting should provide the Committee with an assessment of whether or not the reduced time frame of the biennial programme plan has made it easier to reflect the latest legislative developments that could have a bearing on the allocation of resources.

11. Part one of the strategic framework provides an opportunity to expand on the broad priorities of the Organization in more detail than the Secretariat was able to do in the medium-term plan. The view was expressed that future reports on priority-setting should expand on that element.

12. The view was also expressed that the report should have provided a more detailed analysis of the experiences that the Secretariat has gained in the application of the results-based logical framework and how they might improve priority-setting in the Organization. The report provided a great deal of information on what had transpired before 1998 but very little on the impact of the changes reflected in the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, beyond what was alluded to in paragraph 16 of the report.

13. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was the first one to reflect the results-based-budgeting methodology, and the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 was the first budget to be submitted in a results-based format. The performance report for the biennium 2002-2003 thus provided the Committee with an opportunity to evaluate the application of the results-based logical framework for the first time. It was hoped that future reports on priority-setting would expand on the contribution, if any, that the results-based-budgeting logical framework has made towards the setting of priorities, in particular as it is intended to improve the measurement of achievements.

14. It was acknowledged that priority-setting remains the prerogative of Member States and that the use of results-based budgeting may not address the larger question of how to identify, agree upon and designate priorities.

15. With regard to paragraph 35 of the report, it was recalled that in paragraph 19 of its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, the General Assembly emphasized that resources proposed by the Secretary-General should be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities to ensure their full, effective and efficient implementation. The view was expressed that the priorities, as reflected in the legislative mandates, should determine the resource requirements for the Organization; the resource levels should not determine the priorities.

16. It was also stressed that the level of resources for peacekeeping operations and for the international Tribunals should not have any impact on the level of resources for the regular budget. However, it was pointed out that some Member States viewed their contributions, assessed or voluntary, to the work of the United Nations in their entirety, and decisions on the level of resources for the regular budget, the peacekeeping operations and the Tribunals were inevitably linked.

17. It was questioned how expanding the discussion of resources beyond the Fifth Committee would prevent the "disconnection between planning and resource allocation" referred to in paragraph 33 of the report. The view was expressed that the rules of procedure of the General Assembly guiding administrative and budgetary questions were clear. General Assembly resolution 45/248 of 21 December 1990 was recalled, and the view was expressed that it had further

clarified the mandate given to the Fifth Committee. It was also stated that the latter resolution had been aimed at ensuring that the Main Committees would be able to focus on substantive matters and that resource requirements would not be the overriding factor in setting priorities or determining objectives.

18. The General Assembly did not amend the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation when it adopted resolution 58/269. It was therefore expected that the process of consultations with sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies would continue and that the relevant regulations and rules would be implemented to the fullest extent possible. Those regulations and rules should apply to all activities undertaken by the United Nations, irrespective of their source of financing.

19. It was noted that the majority of the conclusions in the report have been reflected to some extent in previous reports of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In view of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 58/269, it was felt that the recommendations of the Committee should focus largely on those issues that are relevant to the question of priority-setting within the context of more recent developments.

20. It was observed that a major feature of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, as well as the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, was the reallocation of resources among subprogrammes within each programme, without any justification of the criteria for such reallocation, as indicated by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[4]. In this regard, the need for the General Assembly to give particular attention to this question when considering the present report at its sixtieth session was stressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

21. **The Committee emphasized that priority-setting in the Organization was an intergovernmental process and that priorities represented the longer-term objectives of the Organization.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16), para. 19.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/51/6).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/57/6 and Corr.1).

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-eight Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (A/58/7 and Corr.1), para. 33.

United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
24 June 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelatif **DeBabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Programme questions: programme planning (item 4 (a))

Proposed biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007

Programme 27
Safety and security

1. At its 11th and 13th meetings, on 14 and 16 June 2005, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered proposed programme 27, Safety and security, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/806, annex).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 27 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. General support was expressed for the proposed programme. The value and importance of the activities proposed in the programme were recognized, and particular emphasis was placed on the need for further strengthening of the United Nations security management system in the field. A view was expressed that the General Assembly should be kept informed of progress in the formation of the United Nations safety and security structures, in particular in the field, in the context of the implementation of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276

05-39704 (E) 280605

of 23 December 2004 on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations.

4. A view was expressed that coordination among various United Nations entities and consultations with United Nations funds and programmes on safety and security-related matters should be a continuous process and that that aspect should be more clearly reflected in the programme narrative and the strategies. It was pointed out that the monitoring of compliance with security policies, standards and operational procedures by all actors in the field should be further reflected in the programme of work of the Department of Safety and Security in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Views were also expressed that the programme narrative should emphasize the primary responsibility of host countries for the safety and security of the United Nations operations, staff and premises, in line with the provisions of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276.

5. A view was also expressed that the general orientation of the programme and logical framework should more closely reflect the provisions of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Safety and security, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 27.5 (c)

Insert the words "safety and" before the word "security"

Subprogramme 2
Indicator of achievement (a) (ii)

Insert the words "safety and" before the word "security"

United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4/Add.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 July 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelatif **Debabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (item 4 (b))

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

1. At its 11th meeting, on 14 June 2005, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered issues related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003.

2. The Controller made a statement and responded to questions.

Discussion

3. Delegations recalled General Assembly resolution 58/269, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish new procedures, on a trial basis, for the review of the biennial programme plan, the budget outline and the proposed programme budget. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved by the Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that arose between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the programme budget. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General had indicated in his note on the proposed biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/806) that the only new mandate affecting the programme narratives of the approved biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007[1] (namely, the objectives of the Organization, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement) were

05-40622 (E) 080705

related to safety and security. Consequently, in accordance with established procedure, the Secretary-General submitted a new programme to be included in the biennial programme plan, namely, programme 27, safety and security (ibid.).

4. Views were expressed that the Committee should focus on the new programme for safety and security and not discuss the proposed programme budget, bearing in mind the need to observe the new procedures during the trial period. Furthermore, it was noted that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 would not be submitted to the Committee for its consideration. The view was also expressed that the General Assembly had not amended the programmatic role of the Committee when it adopted the experiment. In this regard, it was noted that the Committee should continue to consider the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[2] and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning the programmatic role of the Committee in the planning and budgetary process. In this context, the view was expressed that the proposed programme budget had been introduced to the Committee in order to enable it to perform its programmatic role and undertake the review called for in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 58/269.

5. Views were expressed that many of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session would have an impact on the programme narrative of the biennial programme plan. It was pointed out, however, that at the time of its review of the biennial programme plan, the Assembly had benefited from the ongoing discussions in other committees of the General Assembly on related issues. Some resolutions requested the Secretary-General to undertake additional work, and/or to deliver additional outputs or to change procedures, and those mandates have been duly reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. However, there were no new mandates requiring modification of the approved objectives of the Organization, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat or the indicators of achievement, as approved by the General Assembly, with the exception of safety and security.

6. It was noted that a corrigendum to the biennial programme plan had been issued with respect to programme 24, Management and support services, to include a programme narrative for services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.[3]

7. Views were expressed that the overview sections of individual budget fascicles did not contain the same information presented in the overall orientation of each programme in the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the Secretariat pointed out that the overview in the programme budget served a different purpose and was intended to highlight major resource movement and the focus of activities for the biennium, to provide a summary of the number of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement and of the number of publications, to identify approximate resources for monitoring and evaluation and the level of extrabudgetary resources, and to indicate the distribution of resources of the budget by component. These issues do not appear in the overall orientation for every programme in the biennial programme plan.

8. Views were expressed that the definition of programme narratives set out in paragraph 41 of the foreword and introduction to the programme budget for the

biennium 2006-2007 (see A/60/6 (Introduction)), only applied to the subprogrammes and not the programmes. In this regard, it was noted that regulation 4.5 and rule 104.4 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation clearly define the type of programme information that should be set out in the narratives of programmes and subprogrammes. It was acknowledged that, in implementing paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 58/269, it might be difficult to ensure that the programme narratives of the biennial programme plan and proposed programme budget are identical. Views were thus expressed that the Committee should inform the General Assembly about that difficulty and that it would be easier to ensure that the narratives of the subprogrammes are identical. It was also felt that the Secretariat should be encouraged to make a greater effort to ensure that the narrative of each budget fascicle is similar to that of the related programme set out in the programme plan.

9. With respect to the inclusion in the proposed programme budget, but not in the biennial programme plan, of a component for executive direction and management, together with related objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, it was noted that the focus of the Committee's work was on programme, not managerial issues. Views were expressed that logical frameworks for executive direction and management should be included in the next biennial programme plan.

10. Views were expressed that outputs should be terminated in accordance with regulation 5.6 and rule 105.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and that the relevant intergovernmental bodies should approve such termination. It was noted that a number of specialized intergovernmental bodies had reviewed the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget prior to the issuance of the budget fascicles. Attention was also drawn to the fact that annex III to the foreword and introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (ibid.), which will be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration, provides a review of the identification of activities and outputs that have been completed or become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003. It was noted that not only had discontinued outputs been indicated in the proposed programme budget (i.e., those that were non-recurrent or had been completed, rationalized, consolidated or terminated by legislative authority), but that the status of delivery of outputs had also been reported in the biennial programme performance report, which is submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee. In the programme performance report, information and the mandate for the changes are provided on outputs that have been added, deleted or modified subsequent to the submission of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget.

11. It was noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, had decided to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one, and that it had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Committee at its forty-seventh session, reviewing the experiences gained with the changes made in the planning and budgeting process.

12. It was noted that, in the meantime, the General Assembly, in paragraph 14 of its resolution 58/269, had requested the Committee to provide comments at its current session on the various aspects of the review process referred to with respect to the review of programme narratives of the proposed programme budget. In this connection, the view was expressed that the mandates given to the Committee, as set out in its terms of reference, the regulations and rules of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning the programmatic role of the Committee in the planning and budgetary process, must be fully observed. At the same time, it was noted that any apparent conflict between those mandates and current arrangements reflects the interim status of the new procedures and was not a question of non-compliance.

13. It was confirmed that the only new mandate affecting the programme narratives of the approved biennial programme plan, namely, the objectives of the Organization, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement, related to safety and security, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his note on the proposed biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.

14. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should consider any further specific issues relating to the narratives of budget fascicles in the context of its review of the proposed programme budget for 2006-2007.

15. Concern was expressed that a number of sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 were not identical in the programmatic parts and had not been issued in time for consideration by the Committee in accordance with regulation 5.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and that since all the sections of the proposed programme budget had not been issued, they had not been exhaustively reviewed by the Committee.

16. While the efforts made by the Secretariat to implement paragraph 9 of resolution 58/269 were recognized, concern was expressed that there were some discrepancies between the programmatic aspects of the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and the relevant programmes of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007.

17. Views were expressed that programmatic portions of the budget sections, i.e., the overview of the sections, the objectives of the Organization, the expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and the indicators of achievement in the subprogrammes, should be identical to the overall orientation of the respective programmes of the biennial programme plan.

18. Views were expressed that the programmatic aspects of the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, including the overview portions, should be identical to the respective programmes of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 and should be revised accordingly for consideration by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

19. Views were expressed that in order for the Committee to perform its programmatic role in the planning and budgetary process, adequate time should be

allocated within its programme of work in budget years to both formal and informal sessions.

20. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 24, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget, subject to the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 24.4, replace the second sentence with the following: "In this connection, the programme of work includes the implementation of the Agenda for Protection, adopted by Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-third session, held at Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2002 (A/57/12/Add.1, annex IV), as well as the actions approved by the Assembly in its resolution 58/153 on strengthening the capacity of UNHCR."

(b) At the end of paragraph 24.2, add the following sentence: "Due attention will be paid to the particular needs and capacities of refugee women and elderly refugees and the special needs of refugee children and adolescents."

21. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget, subject to the following modification:

In paragraph 18.4, *for* Millennium Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8, *read* the Millennium Development Goals.

22. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget, subject to the following modification:

Replace the last sentence of paragraph 4.2 with the following sentences: "Weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, continue to be of primary concern to the Organization. Conventional disarmament, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms and light weapons and land mines, has received growing attention from the international community over the past few years."

23. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should approve the programme narrative of section 16, International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget subject to the deletion from paragraph 16.3 of the sentence starting in line 7.

24. In this context, the decisions taken at the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which followed the adoption of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007, were recalled. Bearing in mind that no amendments to the logical framework of subprogrammes 2, Monitoring the Habitat agenda, and 3, Regional and technical cooperation, of section 15, Human settlements, of the proposed programme budget are required, views were expressed that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly proposals for the refinement of the outputs of subprogramme 3 to ensure that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme supports regional institutions, such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, and the enhanced framework of implementation.

25. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should approve the narrative of subprogramme 2, Services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, of section 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the proposed programme budget, and that the Secretary-General should include the subprogramme in the revised biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.

26. The difference between the programme narratives in sections 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, and 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 was noted. Views were expressed that the Secretary-General should ensure that the logical framework in table 28A.12 of the proposed programme budget is identical to the narrative approved in the biennial programme plan and is submitted to the General Assembly in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget.

27. Views were expressed that the Secretary-General should revise section 28E, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 to reflect the indicator of achievement that was omitted from table 28E.10, and submit the revised budget section to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

28. The inclusion of a new indicator of achievement in subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services (see table 2.19), under Conference Management, New York, of section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/275 of 23 December 2004, was noted. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should adopt the revised programme narrative in section 2 of the proposed programme budget and programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.

29. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should adopt the programme narrative of section 33, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 once it has adopted programme 27 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007. It was affirmed that the programme narratives of the subprogrammes of section 33 and programme 27 were identical. Views were expressed that the attention of the General Assembly should be drawn to the revisions made to section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget, as subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, has been replaced by programme 27 of the biennial programme plan.

30. Views were expressed that the General Assembly should consider the programme narratives of the budget sections that were not introduced to the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session.

31. Regret was expressed that the Secretariat had not fully complied with General Assembly resolution 58/269 when preparing the budget fascicles of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and in this regard, regret was also expressed that as a result, many difficulties had been faced during the consideration of the budget fascicles.

32. Views were expressed that table 28A.12 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 should be revised as follows:

Under expected accomplishment (a), the word "consistent" should be replaced by the words "fair and effective".

33. Views were expressed that table 28E.5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 should be revised as follows:

Under expected accomplishment (c), the word "consistent" should be replaced by the words "fair and effective".

34. Views were expressed that table 28F.6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 should be revised as follows:

Under expected accomplishment (b), the word "consistent" should be replaced by the words "fair and effective".

35. Views were expressed that table 28G.5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 should be revised as follows:

Under expected accomplishment (c), the word "consistent" should be replaced by the words "fair and effective".

36. Views were expressed that section 33, Safety and security, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, should be revised as follows:

(a) Paragraph 33.3: after the words "Department of Safety and Security", insert the words "in full coordination with the host country law enforcement agencies";

(b) Paragraph 33.3 (e): at the end of the paragraph, add the words "taking into account the international character of the Organization";

(c) On page 12, under Subprogramme 1: at the end of the title "Security and safety coordination", add the word "activities";

(d) Paragraph 33.24 (d): at the end of the paragraph, insert the words "in full coordination with the host country law enforcement agencies";

(e) Paragraph 33.24 (h): at the end of the paragraph, insert the words "in full coordination with the host country law enforcement agencies";

(f) Table 33.15, indicator (a) (i): at the end of the indicator, insert the words "in full coordination with the host country law enforcement agencies";

(g) Table 33.15, indicator (b) (i): at the end of the indicator insert the words ", in full coordination with the host country law enforcement agencies".

37. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of General Assembly resolution 59/275 were recalled.

38. Views were expressed that the plan outline should be coordinated at the highest level of the Secretariat.

Conclusions and recommendations

39. **The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General take all legislative mandates fully into account when preparing the strategic framework**

for the biennium 2008-2009 to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee at its forty-sixth session.

40. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative parts of sections 1 to 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 to 15, 17, 19 to 22, 25, 26, 29 and 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, subject to the recommendations given below.**

41. **The Committee noted, inter alia, that in sections 4, 16, 18, 24 and 28, the programmatic narratives in the budget fascicles for the biennium 2006-2007, in particular the overview parts, were different from the overall orientation parts in the plan, and recommended that in its consideration of the proposed programme budget, the General Assembly take the necessary action to ensure that these narratives of the budget fascicles, including the overview parts, are identical to the respective programmes of the plan, including their overall orientation parts.**

42. **The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to ensure that the implementation of the overview parts of the budget sections for 2006-2007 be in full conformity with the overall orientation parts of the biennial programme plan for 2006-2007.**

43. **The Committee recalled that the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 provides the policy framework for the preparation of the proposed programme budget.**

44. **The Committee welcomed the application of the results-based logical framework to the executive direction and management component in several budget sections, and requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, on expanding the logical framework to the above components in the remaining sections of the programme budget, where relevant, with a view to enhancing managerial responsibility for programme implementation.**

45. **The Committee recalled that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 is only the second budget to include performance targets in the logical framework, which will enable managers to track progress towards the overall direction of their activities and enhance reporting on programme performance. The Committee welcomed the refinements made to the logical framework and recognized that some aspects of the work carried out by the United Nations are less quantifiable than others.**

46. **The Committee also acknowledged that results-based budgeting is still at the early stages of implementation and that further improvements will be required to clarify to what extent the outputs contribute to the attainment of objectives and expected accomplishments. The Committee further stressed the importance of assigning responsibility for the achievement of results to programme managers. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to further develop and strengthen mechanisms to monitor, evaluate and measure the results and impact of programmes and activities.**

47. **The Committee noted that 3,019 outputs were proposed for termination during the biennium 2006-2007. The Committee was informed that in some**

instances, intergovernmental bodies had been involved in the review of the programme of work for the upcoming biennium, which resulted in the discontinuation of several outputs. The Committee welcomed the interaction between programme managers and relevant intergovernmental bodies, which may facilitate the consideration by the General Assembly of the programme of work.

48. The Committee furthermore noted that several resolutions and decisions had been adopted since the preparation and adoption of the biennial programme plan for the biennium 2006-2007. The Committee was informed that the legislative mandates did not require any revision to the programme narratives of the subprogrammes of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. The Committee was also informed that the Secretariat, if necessary, may revise the outputs of subprogrammes in order to ensure the implementation of legislative decisions that were approved after the preparation and adoption of the plan.

49. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat provide the General Assembly, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, with a list of outputs that may require either revision to or inclusion in the proposed programme budget due to legislative decisions taken by the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The Committee was informed that, in accordance with rule 106.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, additional outputs required by a legislative decision subsequent to the approval of the proposed programme budget will be reflected in the programme performance report for the biennium 2006-2007.

50. The Committee, in reviewing the implementation of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 58/269, noted that the programmatic aspects of the narratives of the budget fascicles were not identical to the biennial programme plan.

51. The Committee recommended that in addition to the logical framework, the narratives of the overview parts of budget sections should be identical with respect to programmatic issues to the overall orientation parts of the biennial programme plan, while recognizing that additional budgetary information, where necessary, should be made available in separate paragraphs in the overview part.

52. The Committee recommended that in those budget sections containing parts on policymaking organs, executive direction and management and/or introduction to subprogrammes, unless the same information is already contained in the relevant biennial programme plan, such parts should be limited only to budgetary information and should not be expanded to include programmatic aspects.

53. The Committee furthermore noted that the programmatic narratives of the subprogrammes of budget fascicles were largely identical. The Committee acknowledged that full implementation of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 58/269 should facilitate its consideration of the programmatic aspects of the budget fascicles in future.

54. **The Committee also noted that the General Assembly had adopted several legislative mandates at its fifty-ninth session. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a list of new and/or revised mandates approved by the Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan.**

55. **The Committee recommended that in the next proposed programme budget, the Secretariat ensure the implementation of paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 58/269.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/59/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/58/600.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/59/6/Rev.1/Corr.1).

United Nations E/AC.51/2005/L.4/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
28 June 2005

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 2005
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Abdelatif **Debabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 4 (c))

Linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the Millennium Declaration

1. At its 8th and 9th meetings, on 10 and 13 June 2005, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2005/2).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. A representative of the Regional Commissions New York Office also made a statement.

Discussion

3. The pilot thematic evaluation was welcomed as useful and timely given the upcoming High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2005. It was noted that the goal of poverty eradication is of critical significance and an integral part of the work of the United Nations. It was further noted that the report was a good example of how a thematic approach to evaluation could be useful.

05-40141 (E) 290605

4. Several delegations noted that the report provided a helpful and perceptive analysis of linkages between headquarters and field offices. In particular, support was expressed for the conclusions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the complexity of current linkage structures was not conducive to effective and efficient collaboration between headquarters and the field and that, given its multifaceted nature, poverty must be tackled through a comprehensive, multisectoral and coordinated approach. It was also generally agreed that strong linkages were crucial to such an approach.

5. It was also noted that information-sharing among agencies at the headquarters, regional and field levels, as well as between United Nations offices and Member States, was important for effective linkages. In particular, the importance of better informing country offices about the relevant work of agencies with no field presence was stressed.

6. Additionally, the view was expressed that greater inter-agency coordination was needed for stronger linkages. It was pointed out that enhanced collaboration between inter-agency coordinating bodies should also positively influence United Nations country teams and strengthen the resident coordinator system, and that proper intergovernmental oversight was needed for any efforts to enhance coordination among United Nations agencies.

7. Several delegations expressed concern that the report did not adequately address the issue of coordination between Member States and United Nations agencies. The Office of Internal Oversight Services acknowledged the importance of such coordination but clarified that such an assessment was beyond the scope of the evaluation. It was noted that poverty eradication and, specifically, the Millennium Declaration targets were the responsibility of national Governments, and therefore due attention should be given to the role of national Governments as the central stakeholders in headquarters/field linkages. The point was made that synergies between field offices and national Governments should be created, and also that greater cohesion and interaction between the field and national Governments would minimize the risk of duplication and facilitate learning and the promotion of best practices. It was further noted that the United Nations agenda should be harmonized with the needs and priorities of national Governments and that Member States drive their own development process. It was generally agreed that enhanced headquarters/field linkages should ultimately strengthen the capacities of recipient Member States.

8. While broad support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the report, questions were raised about several of the recommendations regarding implementation, resource implications and impact on the work programmes of United Nations agencies.

9. It was suggested that the words "hunger and" be included before the word "poverty" in paragraph 72, recommendation 6 and paragraph 77 (b) of the Office of Internal Oversight Services report.

10. The views were also expressed that priority attention should be given to recommendations 6, 7 and 8, as well as to improving information technology networking between the field and United Nations Headquarters with a view to improving delivery results in the field.

11. With regard to recommendation 3, it was suggested that the United Nations Development Group be requested to develop specific and systemic measures to facilitate access by Member States at the country level to the relevant expertise and technical capacities of the regional commissions and other non-resident agencies, and to facilitate, at the request of the recipient country, the involvement of regional commissions in the preparation of common country assessments and the United Nations development assistance frameworks. In this regard, the regional commissions should also strengthen their cooperation and coordination with the country teams for these purposes, in accordance with paragraph 76 of General Assembly resolution 59/250.

12. Support and appreciation were expressed for the role and activities of the regional commissions. It was stressed that the regional commissions, through their regional perspective and outreach, could play an important role in linking the United Nations efforts for poverty eradication at the global and country levels. The need was reaffirmed for the United Nations system, including through the resident coordinator system, to benefit from the expertise and capacities of the regional commissions and to facilitate access for Member States at the country level to those expertise and technical capacities, in particular on issues with cross-border, subregional and regional dimensions. In this regard, it was emphasized that the perspective of the current United Nations frameworks at the country level should be broadened to incorporate cross-border, subregional and regional issues so as to ensure policy coherence at those levels.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 to 9, subject to the provisions set out below.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General consider appropriate and balanced representation in the working group mentioned in recommendation 1 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services report and, in this context, further recommended that the Secretary-General take steps to enhance inter-agency coordination to fight hunger in the framework of the Millennium Declaration.**

15. **The Committee noted that the report did not treat in detail the issue of coordination between United Nations bodies and national Governments, which is of crucial importance in field activities. It emphasized that in order to strengthen this coordination and, ultimately, linkages between headquarters and field activities, the United Nations programmes should be harmonized with the needs and priorities of national Governments.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the regional commissions and the country offices establish mechanisms for the regular exchange of information and knowledge-sharing in areas of mutual interest, in particular poverty-eradication activities.**

17. **The Committee urged the regional commissions to consider how to strengthen their websites as platforms for the exchange of regional best practices and lessons learned and encouraged the Regional Commissions New York Office to continue its efforts in disseminating and sharing interregional best practices and experiences, including through the use of a joint website for that purpose.**